

16 June 1986

TALKING POINTS FOR THE DDI

South Africa: Soweto Day

[redacted] no major violent confrontations during yesterday's tenth anniversary of the Soweto riots, but the situation remains extremely volatile.

- The US Embassy reported that meetings in defiance of the ban were scheduled in several major urban areas, but we have received no information on what took place.

We believe that the number of blacks participating in yesterday's nationwide strike far surpassed the one million plus who stayed away from work on May Day.

- [redacted] 60-100 percent of black workers did not report to work in various urban areas.
- Transportation systems operated far below capacity, streets in most areas were reported to be virtually deserted, and many businesses were closed.

Pretoria took extensive measures to control the dissemination of all news and maintain security in white areas.

- The US Embassy reports that the Government apparently cut phone service to black urban areas and warned clergymen that commemorative church services would be considered a violation of emergency regulations.
- [redacted] that patrols around security and government facilities in Pretoria had been doubled and contingency forces and vehicles were prepared for deployment. An increased police presence also has been noted in some white areas.
- The Government has restricted Winnie Mandela--wife of jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela--to her house between 6am and 8pm daily and has prohibited any public statements from her.

Outlook

Both sides are likely to believe--at least initially--that they gained the most from yesterday's actions: the blacks because massive numbers stayed away in the face of harsh government actions; the whites because they managed to prevent violent confrontations.

likely more aggressive actions by S.A.

- The situation in the townships will remain unsettled and tense throughout the week as blacks continue to mark the anniversary of the Soweto riots.
- Some black groups probably will try to prolong yesterday's strike, but with many of their leaders in detention or hiding major unions are unlikely to risk a further government clamp-down by officially sanctioning an extended work stoppage.
- Pretoria is likely to maintain strict press restrictions and heavy security in and around black townships for some time, as it undoubtedly believes the crackdown has been at least partially vindicated by yesterday's relative calm.

25X1

25X1